

## CHAPTER 2.4.8.

### SCRAPIE

#### Article 2.4.8.1.

Scrapie is a neurodegenerative disease of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) group most commonly reported affecting adult sheep and goats. It is traditionally recognised that the agent is transmitted horizontally and maternally. A variation in genetic susceptibility of sheep has been recognised. The *incubation period* of the disease is variable, however it is usually measured in years. The duration in *incubation period* can be influenced by a number of factors including host genetics and strain of agent.

**The recommendations in the present chapter are not intended, or sufficient, to manage the risks associated with the potential presence of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy agent in small ruminants.**

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Manual*.

#### Article 2.4.8.2.

The scrapie status of a country, a zone or an *establishment* can be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) the outcome of a risk assessment identifying all potential factors for scrapie occurrence and their historic perspective, in particular the:
  - a) epidemiological situation concerning [scrapie] all animal transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) in the country, zone or *establishment*;
  - b) importation or introduction of small ruminants or their embryos/ova potentially infected with scrapie;
  - c) extent of knowledge of the population structure and husbandry practices of sheep and goats in the country or zone;
  - d) feeding practices, including consumption of *meat-and-bone meal* or greaves derived from ruminants;
  - e) importation of *meat-and-bone meal* or greaves potentially contaminated with an animal [a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)] or feedstuffs containing either;
  - f) the origin and use of animal by-products and slaughterhouse waste, the parameters of the rendering processes and the methods of animal feed [production] manufacture;
- 2) an on-going awareness programme for veterinarians, farmers, and workers involved in transportation, marketing and slaughter of sheep and goats to facilitate recognition and encourage reporting of all animals with clinical signs compatible with scrapie;

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- 3) a surveillance and monitoring system including the following:
- a) official veterinary surveillance, reporting and regulatory control in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.5.;
  - b) a *Veterinary Administration* with current knowledge of, and authority over, all *establishments* which contain sheep and goats in the whole country;
  - c) compulsory notification and clinical investigation of all sheep and goats showing clinical signs compatible with scrapie;
  - d) examination in an approved laboratory of appropriate material from sheep and goats older than 18 months displaying clinical signs compatible with scrapie taking into account the guidelines in Appendix X.X.X.;
  - e) maintenance of records including the number and results of all investigations for at least 7 years.

Article 2.4.8.3.

**Scrapie free country or zone**

Countries or zones may be considered free from scrapie if within the said territory:

- 1) a risk assessment, as described in point 1) of Article 2.4.8.2., has been conducted, and it has been demonstrated that appropriate measures have been taken for the relevant period of time to manage any risk identified;

and either

- 2) the country or the zone have demonstrated historical freedom (under study);**

or

- 3) for at least 7 years, a surveillance and monitoring system as referred to in Article 2.4.8.2. has been in place, and no *case* of scrapie has been reported during this period;

or

- 4) for at least 7 years, a sufficient number of investigations has been carried out annually, to provide a 95% level of confidence of detecting scrapie if it is present at a prevalence rate exceeding 0.1% out of the total number of all chronic wasting conditions in the population of sheep and goats older than [18] 12 months of age (under study) and no *case* of scrapie has been reported during this period; it is assumed that the occurrence rate of chronic wasting conditions within the population of sheep and goats older than [18] 12 months of age is at least 1%;

or

- 5) all *establishments* containing sheep or goats have been accredited free as described in Article 2.4.8.4.;

and

- 6) the feeding to sheep and goats of *meat-and-bone meal* or greaves potentially contaminated with an animal TSE has been banned and effectively enforced in the whole country for at least 7 years;

and

- 7) introductions of sheep and goats, semen and embryos/oocytes from countries or zones not free from scrapie are carried out in accordance with Articles 2.4.8.6., 2.4.8.7., 2.4.8.8. or 2.4.8.9., as relevant.

For maintenance of country or zone free status, the investigations referred to in point 4) above should be repeated every 7 years.

Article 2.4.8.4.

### **Scrapie free establishment**

An *establishment* may be considered eligible for accreditation as a scrapie free *establishment* if:

- 1) in the country or zone where the *establishment* is situated, the following conditions are fulfilled:
  - a) the disease is compulsorily notifiable;
  - b) a surveillance and monitoring system as referred to in Article 2.4.8.2. is in place;
  - c) affected sheep and goats are slaughtered and completely destroyed;
  - d) the feeding to sheep and goats of *meat-and-bone meal* or greaves potentially contaminated with an animal TSE has been banned and effectively enforced in the whole country ;
  - e) an official accreditation scheme is in operation under the supervision of the *Veterinary Administration*, including the measures described in point 2) below;
- 2) in the *establishment* the following conditions have been complied with for at least 7 years:
  - a) sheep and goats should be permanently identified and records maintained, to enable trace back to their *establishment* of birth;
  - b) records of movements of sheep and goats in and out of the *establishment* are established and maintained;
  - c) introductions of animals are allowed only from *establishments* of an equal or higher stage in the process of accreditation; however, rams and bucks complying with the provisions in point 2) of Article 2.4.8.8. may also be introduced;
  - d) an *Official Veterinarian* inspects sheep and goats in the *establishment* and audits the records at least once a year;
  - e) no *case* of scrapie has been [confirmed] reported;
  - f) sheep and goats of the *establishment* should have no direct or indirect contact with sheep or goats from *establishments* of a lower status;
  - g) all culled animals over [18] 12 months of age are inspected by an *Official Veterinarian*, and a proportion of those exhibiting neurological or wasting signs are tested in a laboratory for scrapie. The selection of the animals to be tested should be made by the *Official Veterinarian*.

Animals over [18] 12 months of age that have died or have been killed for reasons other than routine slaughter should also be tested (including 'fallen' stock and emergency slaughter).

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Article 2.4.8.5.

**Regardless of the scrapie status of the *exporting country*, *Veterinary Administrations* should authorise without restriction the import or transit through their territory of *meat* (excluding materials as referred to in Article 2.4.8.11.), milk, milk products, wool and its derivatives, hides and skins, tallow, derivatives made from this tallow and dicalcium phosphate originating from sheep and goats.**

Article 2.4.8.6.

When importing from countries not considered free from scrapie, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for sheep and goats for breeding or rearing

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals come from a zone or an *establishment* free from scrapie as described in Article 2.4.8.3. and in Article 2.4.8.4.

Article 2.4.8.7.

When importing from countries or zones not considered free from scrapie, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for sheep and goats for slaughter

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

- 1) in the country or zone:
  - a) the disease is compulsorily notifiable;
  - b) a surveillance and monitoring system as referred to in Article 2.4.8.2. is in place;
  - c) affected sheep and goats are slaughtered and completely destroyed;
- 2) the sheep and goats selected for export showed no clinical sign of scrapie on the day of shipment.

Article 2.4.8.8.

When importing from countries or zones not considered free from scrapie, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for semen of sheep and goats

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

- 1) in the country or zone:
  - a) the disease is compulsorily notifiable;
  - b) a surveillance and monitoring system as referred to in Article 2.4.8.2. is in place;
  - c) affected sheep and goats are slaughtered and completely destroyed;

- d) the feeding of sheep and goats with *meat-and-bone meal* or greaves potentially contaminated with an animal TSE has been banned and effectively enforced in the whole country;

- 2) the donor animals:
  - a) are permanently identified, to enable trace back to their *establishment* of origin;
  - b) have been kept since birth in establishments in which no case of scrapie had been confirmed during their residency;
  - c) showed no clinical sign of scrapie at the time of semen collection;
- 3) **the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.2.2.**

Article 2.4.8.9.

When importing from countries or zones not considered free from scrapie, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for embryos/oocytes of sheep and goats

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

- 1) in the country or zone:
  - a) the disease is compulsorily notifiable;
  - b) a surveillance and monitoring system as referred to in Article 2.4.8.2. is in place;
  - c) affected sheep and goats are slaughtered and completely destroyed;
  - d) the feeding to sheep and goats of *meat-and-bone meal* or greaves potentially contaminated with animal TSE has been banned and effectively enforced in the whole country;
- 2) the donor animals:
  - a) are permanently identified, to enable trace back to their *establishment* of origin;
  - b) showed no clinical sign of scrapie at the time of embryo/oocyte collection;
- 3) the embryos/oocytes were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Appendix 3.3.2.

Article 2.4.8.10.

*Meat-and-bone meal* containing any sheep or goat protein, or any feedstuffs containing that type of *meat-and-bone meal*, which originate from countries not considered free of scrapie should not be traded between countries for ruminant feeding.



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Article 2.4.8.11.

When importing from countries or zones not considered free from scrapie, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for skulls including brains, ganglia and eyes, vertebral column including ganglia and spinal cord, tonsils, thymus, spleen, intestine, adrenal gland, pancreas, or liver, and protein products derived therefrom, from sheep and goats

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

- 1) in the country or zone:
  - a) the disease is compulsorily notifiable;
  - b) a surveillance and monitoring system as referred to in Article 2.4.8.2. is in place;
  - c) affected sheep and goats are slaughtered and completely destroyed;
- 2) the materials come from sheep and goats that showed no clinical sign of scrapie on the day of slaughter.

Article 2.4.8.12.

***Veterinary Administrations of importing countries* should require:**

**for ovine and caprine materials destined for the preparation of biologicals**

**the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the products originate from sheep and goats born and raised in a scrapie free country, zone or *establishment*.**